

**HT Intercessions**  
**29<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**Heavenly Father**, we bring our prayers and petitions before you, in the sure faith, that you will hear them, and answer them, according to our needs.

We pray for the continuing witness, of the many Christian communities around the world, and in particular for this Church of England. Strengthen and guide our Archbishops, our Bishops, our team clergy, and all the people who support them. At this time we pray especially for Neil, and Alistair and Joy, as they commence their new work amongst us. Bless and strengthen the dialogue and understanding, between Archbishop Justin and Pope Francis. In the power of the Holy Spirit, may they all seek to unite a deeply divided church; whilst accepting that every one of us, seeks You in their own way.

*“Lord, look in mercy on your church, lest we, who know you well, shut out those who are different, difficult or demanding.”*

**Lord, in your mercy.**  
**Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, we continue to pray for all those people around your world, who are caught up in *political* violence, and at this Armed Forces weekend, we pray for all those who strive to keep the peace, and for their families:

We think of the conflicts:

between Jew and Arab,  
between Christian and Muslim,  
between Shias and Sunies,  
between Israel and Palestine,  
between the oppressor and the oppressed everywhere.

Particularly at this time we pray for the peoples of Iraq, Ukraine, Syria, and Afghanistan. May the warring factions learn to talk, to trust, and to compromise.

We pray that your atoning love will triumph, and people learn to live in peace with their neighbours.

*“Lord, it is your will, to hold heaven and earth in a single peace. k  
Grant peace in our lands, our homes and in our hearts.”*

**Lord, in your mercy.  
Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, as we watch our television screens, and read our newspapers in comfort, help us to realise the true horrors that are perpetrated by the *few*, but felt by the very *many*. We pray for the victims of crime, the families and friends of the assaulted, and for the *perpetrators* of the crimes. They are *all* your children, created in *your* image. Grant them all an understanding of your forgiving love.

*“Lord, grant them regard for your laws, and respect for human rights;  
lead them in the paths of truth, freedom and love.”*

**Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, we ask You to bless *our* homes, *our* families, *our* neighbours, and *our* communities.  
Grant *us* patience, tolerance, and understanding of the needs of others; the sick and suffering, the elderly, the dependent, the mentally disturbed, the used, the abused and the trafficked, the dis-eased, and the dis-abled. Particularly today we pray that Neil Sebastian will be found safe and well, and reunited with his family. Be with Joy Jones, Muriel Greenway, Zac Durkin, Seb, Tony, Kate, Brian Hill, Eric Jamieson, Alf Knowles, Verna Fowle, Liz Hodges, and Andrea.

*“Lord, surround the frightened with your tenderness, give strength to those in pain, hold the weak in your arms, and grant hope and peace to those recovering.”*

**Lord, in your mercy.  
Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, We pray for the dying; and for the souls of the departed, whether or not they knew your love in their earthly lives. (Particularly today we pray for .....)  
Support those who mourn, with the knowledge of your love.

*“Lord, you will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain.”*

**Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father,** we pray most earnestly for inner personal peace. Jesus commanded us to, *“love one another.”* Before we can truly love others, we need to learn to love ourselves, as we are, with all our imperfections and shortcomings, our desires and our longings. Calm the troubled minds, which lead inevitably to dis-eased bodies.

*“Lord, we have the examples of St Peter and St Paul to guide us. Give us faith, to go out with a good courage, not knowing where we are going; only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us.”*

**Merciful Father,  
Accept these prayers,  
For the sake of your Son,  
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen**